

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 236093

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FOLLOWING REPEAT MBFR VIENNA 0350

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QUOTE

S E C R E T MBFR VIENNA 0350

MBFR NEGOTIATIONS

FROM US REP MBFR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR NEGOTIATIONS: REPORT OF AD HOC GROUP MEETINGS  
OF OCTOBER 23, 1974

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: IN ITS OCTOBER 23 MEETING,  
CHAIRLED BY NETHERLANDS REP (DE VOS), THE AD HOC GROUP  
(AHG) HEARD REPORTS ON BILATERALS WITH CZECHOSLOVAK,  
SOVIET, AND ROMANIAN REPS, APPROVED THE DRAFT WESTERN  
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PAGE 02 STATE 236093

STATEMENT FOR THE OCTOBER 24 PLENARY SESSION,

DISCUSSED AND APPROVED A DRAFT SPECIAL REPORT TO THE NAC GIVING THE GROUP'S PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT OF THE EAST'S OCTOBER 15 "FIRST STEP REDUCTION PROPOSAL" (TEXT IN MBFR VIENNA 348), DISCUSSED THE OCTOBER 22 INFORMAL SESSION, AND REVIEWED THE DRAFT SPEAKING NOTES FOR USE BY THE LUXEMBOURG REP (WINTER) IN THE OCTOBER 25 REPORT OF AHG REPS TO THE NAC ON DEVELOPMENTS TO-DATE IN THE FOURTH ROUND.

2. IN THE BILATERALS, CZECHOSLOVAK REP TOLD CANADIAN REP THAT DURATION OF REDUCTION PERIOD, SIZE OF REDUCTIONS AND ALL OTHER ASPECTS OF THE EAST'S RECENTLY TABLED "INITIAL REDUCTION STEP" PROPOSAL WERE NEGOTIABLE. CZECH REP ADDED THAT AGREEMENT COULD BE REACHED ON IT WITHIN TWO TO THREE MONTHS, AND URGED THE WEST TO MAKE COUNTER PROPOSALS ON SPECIFICS, BUT IN CONTEXT OF EASTERN FIRST STEP PROPOSAL. CONVERSATION OF NETHERLANDS REP WITH SOVIET REP CONTAINED NOTHING NEW. ROMANIAN REP EXPRESSED WISH TO DE VOS FOR WESTERN RESUMPTION OF PERIODIC BRIEFINGS ON INFORMAL MEETINGS, AND GROUP ASKED BELGIAN REP TO BRIEF ROMANIAN ON STRICTLY FACTUAL BASIS AND WITHOUT PROVIDING ALLIED EVALUATIONS; INTERVALS BETWEEN BRIEFINGS WOULD BE EXTENDED TO ABOUT ONE PER MONTH.

3. THERE WAS AGREEMENT IN GROUP THAT OCT 22 INFORMAL HAD BROKEN NO NEW GROUND. UK REP NOTED THAT SOVIET REP (KHLESTOV) HAD AVOIDED TOTALLY NEGATIVE RESPONSE TO UK COMMENT THAT THE ELIMINATION OF THE GLOBAL CEILING WAS A SERIOUS DRAWBACK IN THE NEW EASTERN PROPOSAL. ROSE ALSO UNDERSTOOD KHLESTOV TO HAVE INDICATED READINESS TO DISCUSS GROUND FORCE RECATEGORIZATION AT OCT 29 INFORMAL. COMMENT: SOVIET DELOFF SHUSTOV TOLD US DELOFF OCT 24 THAT EAST WOULD GIVE REACTION ON GROUND FORCE REDEFINITION AT OCT 29 INFORMAL, BUT THAT WEST "WOULD NOT FIND EASTERN REACTION VERY HELPFUL." END COMMENT.

4. GROUP ALSO AGREED THAT EAST HAD BEEN TRYING AT OCT 22 INFORMAL TO DRAW ALLIES ONTO ITS GROUND BY  
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 STATE 236093

REPEATEDLY EMPHASIZING IMPORTANCE OF FIRST STEP

METHODOLOGICAL APPROACH. ITALIAN REP NOTED THAT EAST HAD DISTINGUISHED BETWEEN METHODOLOGY AND SUBSTANCE SEVERAL TIMES DURING THE INFORMAL. BELGIAN REP (ADRIAENSSSEN), APPARENTLY REFLECTING BRUSSELS VIEWS (SEE USNATO 5912), CONTENDED THAT LATEST FIRST STEP PROPOSAL PLACED EAST IN BETTER OPTICAL POSITION

THAN THE WEST, WHICH APPEARED IMMOBILE. ADRIAENSSEN SAID AHG SHOULD TRY TO MOVE INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS FROM METHODOLOGICAL QUESTIONS, SUCH AS WESTERN PHASING AND EASTERN FIRST STEP APPROACHES, TO ISSUES OF SUBSTANCE - PARTICULARLY THE COMMON CEILING. HE THOUGHT ALLIES SHOULD CONSIDER PROPOSING A "MIDDLE GROUND" BETWEEN PHASING AND FIRST STEP, WHICH MIGHT BE TERMED A "FIRST STAGE", AND IN WHICH THE COMMON CEILING WOULD PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE. US REP POINTED OUT THAT THE EAST WAS TRYING TO IMPOSE ITS WAY OF ADDRESSING THE ISSUES ON WEST AS A DEVICE TO AVOID SUBSTANTIAL ASYMMETRICAL REDUCTIONS, THE COMMON CEILING GOAL, VERIFICATION, AND ASSOCIATED MEASURES. US REP SAID THE WEST SHOULD AVOID ACCEPTANCE OF THIS APPROACH. ITALIAN REP AGREED THAT WEST SHOULD NOT ACCEPT EASTERN FIRST STEP METHODOLOGY, BUT MIGHT PACKAGE ITS FIRST PHASE IDEAS IN TERMS OF A "FIRST STEP," AS A MEANS OF SEEKING EASTERN ACCEPTANCE OF ALLIED SUBSTANTIVE CONCEPTS. DISCUSSION OF TACTICS WILL BE CONTINUED AT OCT 24 AHG MEETING. DETAILED REPORT OF OCT 23 AHG MEETING IS BEING SENT BY AIRGRAM. END SUMMARY. RESOR UNQUOTE INGERSOLL

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